

Volunteer Mobilization

VOL.MOB 201

Course Overview

Volunteer Mobilization is a 10-week online course which orients VISTAs to the field of volunteerism and volunteer program planning. In this introductory course, VISTAs will learn about planning and implementing recruiting, screening and training strategies that can be applied to their VISTA site. As students participate in the course, completing assignments and quizzes along the way, they will build knowledge and skills in volunteer mobilization.

Prerequisite

Students must be officially sworn-in as VISTA members.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Identify and describe the current landscape of volunteerism
- Align volunteer mobilization strategies with organizational needs
- Develop tools to recruit, match & train volunteers

Course Features

Course modules: The course has 4 modules, including an introduction to the course expectations and use of online technology. Each module includes various activities, including:

- **Quizzes:** These open-book quizzes will assess your comprehension of the course readings and materials.
- **Worksheet Assignments:** These assignments allow you to apply the course materials to plan and strategize a specific volunteer mobilization task.
- **Work Product Assignments:** These assignments allow you to create and develop original materials and products for mobilizing volunteers at your site.

Course Text

All course readings are from:

McCurley, S. & Lynch, D. (2011). *Volunteer Management: Mobilizing All the Resources Of the Community*. Plattsburgh, NY: Interpub Group Corporation

Course-at-a-Glance

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEER MOBILIZATION

Week 1: Who Volunteers & Why?

Readings:

- Course Syllabus
- An Introduction to Volunteer Involvement (McCurley, S. & Lynch, R.)
- Volunteering in America website

Activities:

- Create and customize your Moodle profile page
- Webinar: Introduction to Volunteer Mobilization

Week 2: Determine What Your Organization Needs

Reading:

- Creating Motivating Volunteer Positions (McCurley, S. & Lynch, R.)

Activity:

- Worksheet: Volunteer Position Description

Week 3: Create a Position Description

Activities:

- Work Product: Write a Volunteer Position Description
- Module Feedback Questionnaire

MODULE 2: VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Week 4: Recruitment Strategies

Reading:

- Recruiting the Right Volunteers (McCurley, S. & Lynch, R.)

Activities:

- Quiz: Volunteer Recruitment
- Worksheet: Recruitment & Communication Strategies

Week 5: Develop & Deliver Your Recruitment Message

Activities:

- Work Product: Marketing Plan & Recruitment Message
- Module Feedback Questionnaire

MODULE 3: SCREENING & MATCHING

Week 6: Designing an Effective Screening & Matching System

Readings:

- Matching Volunteers to Work (McCurley, S. & Lynch, R.)
- Risk Management (McCurley, S. & Lynch, R.)

Activities:

- Quiz: Volunteer Screening & Matching Strategies
- Worksheet: Screening & Interviewing

Week 7: Develop Protocols

Activities:

- Work Product: Screening & Interviewing Protocol Template
- Module Feedback Questionnaire

MODULE 4: SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERS: ORIENTATION & TRAINING

Week 8: Elements of an Effective Volunteer Support System

Readings:

- Preparing Volunteers for Success (McCurley, S. & Lynch, R.)
- Keeping Volunteers on Track (McCurley, S. & Lynch, R.)

Activities:

- Quiz: Volunteer Support Systems
- Worksheet: Orientation & Training

Week 9: Begin to Develop a Support System

Activities:

- Work Product: Orientation Outline & Training Plan
- Module Feedback Questionnaire

Week 10: Course Conclusion

Activities:

- Course Evaluation
- Course Certification

NOTE: Weekly activities are due on Sunday at 11:00 p.m. (PST).

Course Completion and Grading Criteria

This course is offered on a pass/fail basis. Successful participation and completion of this course will be assessed in the following ways:

- Webinar Attendance – 5% of total grade
- Quizzes (3 total) – 15% of total grade
- Worksheet Assignments (4 total) – 30% of total grade
- Work Products (4 total) – 50% of total grade

A total of 200 points are available in this course. To pass this course, you must earn a minimum of 140 points, or 70%. The *Course Activity Checklist* details the individual point values and due dates for all activities. In addition, you will receive detailed criteria outlining how the written assignments will be assessed.

Course Expectations

As a participant, you are expected to:

- Read all assigned articles and other materials
- Complete and submit all activities by the due dates
- Contact the facilitator if you have questions about the materials or assignments that keep you from completing them

You can expect the course facilitator to:

- Read all your assignments and questions carefully and thoughtfully and respond as promptly as possible
- Answer any specific questions within 48 hours

Communication

There are two ways to interact with your facilitator:

1. Via the forums
2. Via the messaging system

Please use the messaging system to contact your facilitator, instead of personal email, Facebook, or other forms of messaging.

Course Rules & Guidelines

Academic honesty and integrity: All work submitted in this course must be your own. All sources used in your work must be properly acknowledged and documented. Violations of academic honesty will be taken seriously and may result in a failing grade in the course.

Course conduct: In the interest of promoting a positive learning environment, students are expected to observe the following guidelines for personal conduct:

- Share only items and comments that are pertinent to the discussion topic
- Be respectful of diverse opinions and experiences; disagree respectfully
- Use discretion when sharing experiences and names of individuals directly from your VISTA assignment

Participation: Students enrolled in VISTA Blend courses are expected to participate actively; VISTA does not offer “auditor” privileges. Consequently, students who fail to meet expectations may be dropped from the course. Unless students communicate extenuating circumstances with their course facilitator, they may be dropped for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to log into the course within the first 7 days of course launch;
- Failure to log into the course for 21 consecutive days;
- Failure to complete 3 consecutive assignments.

Assignment due dates: Weekly activities are due on Sunday at 11:00 p.m. (PST.) See the Course Activity Checklist under Courses Resources on the home page for a list of assignments and corresponding due dates.

Policy for late work: Students are responsible for locating and completing all the activities in the course. Active participation is also expected on a weekly basis. See the *Course Activity Checklist* for activity due dates. Activities will be due every Sunday night at 11:00 p.m. in your time zone. You must give prior notice and receive permission from the facilitator in order to turn in work past the due date, up to 10 days. Every day an activity is late, without prior notice and permission, will result in the loss of 1 point (for example, if your activity is 3 days late, you will lose 3 points). After 10 days, you will automatically receive a score of 0.

Minimum Technical Requirements

The VISTA Blend Online Learning Center is viewed best at 1024 x 768 pixels or higher resolution on your monitor, a DSL Internet connection or faster, and using one of the following web browsers:

- Mozilla Firefox ([Get the latest Firefox](#))
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 or above ([Get the latest Internet Explorer](#))
- Safari ([Get the latest Safari](#))

The VISTA Blend Online Learning Center uses the following media players:

- PDF reader: [Get the latest Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
 - Flash player: [Get the latest Flash Player](#)
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